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ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Adler, Jerry THINKING LIKE A MONKEY (Smithsonian, vol. 38, no. 10, January 2008, pp. 58-62)

Yale University psychologist Laurie Santos is conducting research among a population of monkeys on a small island off the coast of Puerto Rico, to determine their capabilities for complex and abstract thought, by conducting a variety of experiments involving food. Adler describes one experiment, in which Santos tries to ascertain the monkeys' capability to recognize that another individual may be mistaken. Her observations are not conclusive as the experiment is described in these pages, but Santos' work is bringing her closer to understanding the vastness of the gap between the thought processes of humans and monkeys despite their shared status as primates. "The more you hang out with the monkeys," she tells Adler, "the more you realize just how special people really are." Available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/monkey-200801.html>

Gagnon, Geoffrey THE LAST GREAT LAND GRAB (Wired, vol. 16, no. 2, February 2008, pp. 86-89)

Nations around the world face a deadline to make new territorial claims on the continental shelf that extends from their shorelines out into the sea. The U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea will allow nations to stake claims to territory on the shelf, but they must submit undersea maps of their claim within 10 years of their ratification of the treaty. So far, few nations have done so, but more are likely to submit their claims to a U.N. adjudicating panel soon. The rights to hundreds of millions of square kilometers and the oil and mineral rights that go with them are at stake. Gagnon follows a U.S. marine geologist on a mapping expedition and explains some of the technical points of the mapping process that will determine how greatly some nations may be able to expand their boundaries. Available online at http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/magazine/16-02/mf_continentalshelf

Groopman, Jerome BUYING A CURE (New Yorker, vol. 83, no. 45, January 28, 2008, pp. 38-43)

In 1998, when Kathy Giusti created the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to the lethal blood cancer, she realized that in order to accelerate the development of new myeloma drugs, she needed to foster greater collaboration between researchers at different academic institutions. In 2002, she decided to assemble a consortium of scientists who would be required to submit their research proposals to a steering committee for approval, and to publish their results jointly. In exchange, the scientists would receive access to a tissue bank of myeloma blood cells and bone marrow, as well as administrative and organizational support for lab tests and clinical trials. The consortium now has thirteen members, and at least two more institutions are expected to join this year. Most medical charities have traditionally focused on increasing public awareness and on raising money to distribute to researchers, in the hope that some of the work will lead to a new drug or a cure. The author notes that, since Giusti established her foundation, medical philanthropies that apply business principles to their work have become increasingly common.

Judis, John B. PHANTOM MENACE (New Republic, vol. 238, no. 4829, February 13, 2008, pp. 20-25)

In this article, the author tries to explore the psychology behind America's immigration hysteria. There have been periodic bursts of anti-immigration fervor in the U.S. since the mid-nineteenth century, mostly directed at immigrants from Eastern Europe or religious groups such as Catholics and Jews. Anti-immigration sentiment against Muslims grew after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks; however, much of the current anti-immigration sentiment today is propelled by native-born

Americans who feel threatened by the new global capitalism, as businesses that once flourished in small American towns have cut back or closed entirely and jobs have gone overseas. Anti-immigration fear is expected to play a large role in the in the 2008 presidential elections.

Osborne, Brian; Kovacs, Jason CULTURAL TOURISM: SEEKING AUTHENTICITY, ESCAPING INTO FANTASY, OR EXPERIENCING REALITY (Choice, vol. 45, no. 6, February 2008, pp. 927-937)

Cultural tourism, or culture tourism, can be defined as the subset of tourism concerned with a country or region's culture, especially its arts. It generally focuses on traditional communities who have diverse customs, unique forms of art and distinct social practices, which basically distinguishes it from other types/forms of culture. Today it is playing a major role in economic development in both the developed and the developing worlds. The authors believe that what history has been to national identity, so cultural tourism, and its protection of heritage, is now to renewing economic vitality. This bibliographical review focuses on recent literature that considers tourism strategies in which culture and heritage are considered integral to the attraction of distinctive places and experiences, especially to studies concerned with the better management of cultural tourism in terms of economic rationality, ecological sustainability, and cultural compatibility.

Purvis, Andrew MARSEILLE'S ETHNIC BOUILLABAISSE (Smithsonian, vol. 38, no. 9, December 2007, pp. 86-93)

Marseilles, with its multifarious mix of ethnic and religious groups and a run-down port, has traditionally not had the best reputation. But when riots shook France a few years ago, Marseilles stayed relatively calm, causing public opinion makers across Europe to take a closer look. The author notes that, unlike Paris, where ethnic minorities live in the outskirts of the city and are not welcome downtown, diverse residential neighborhoods can be found throughout Marseille's city center. More importantly, community and civic leaders realized that they needed to work together to prevent world events from inciting passions among different groups; this spirit of cooperation was well established when anti-Semitic attacks erupted in France in 2002-2003. As growing numbers of immigrants are arriving in Europe, the author writes that Marseilles, one of the last remaining multicultural Mediterranean coastal cities, may be a model for Europe's future.

Zachary, G. Pascal THE COMING REVOLUTION IN AFRICA (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 50-66)

Even as daily headlines bring grim news of misery, disease, and death in Africa, an agricultural transformation is lifting tens of millions of people out of poverty. A rising generation of small farmers promises not only to put food on the African table but to fundamentally change the continent's economic and political life. While media images of starving and diseased Africans dominate international discussions of this continent, food production in the most heavily populated areas has far outpaced actual population growth, such as in Nigeria, with the largest population of any African country; here food production has grown faster than population for twenty years. In other West African countries, including Ghana, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Benin, crop output has risen by more than four percent annually, far exceeding the rate of population growth. Farm labor productivity in these countries is now so high that in some cases it matches the levels in certain parts of Asia. The World Bank's African Development Indicators 2007 reports that many African economies have moved to a path of faster and steadier economic growth. However, farmers still must deal with the skepticism of African leaders who scorned and exploited them for decades but who are now beginning to support and even participate in agricultural development.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Rice, Andrew A DYING BREED (New York Times Magazine, January 27, 2008)

For centuries, the nomadic herders of Uganda have kept a hardy breed of longhorn cattle known as the Ankole. However, African herders now prefer imported American-bred Holstein cattle, which have now become the preferred breed for maximal production, a result of global trade, marketing, artificial insemination and the demands of agricultural economics. The author notes that the decline of the Ankole is symptomatic of a larger trend which has scientists worried — that the world is depending for its food supply on an ever-narrowing range of highly-engineered livestock and food crops that could be susceptible to the ravages of disease. Developing countries still possess much of the biodiversity of local domesticated breeds, which are in danger of disappearing.

Shoven, John B. NEW AGE THINKING (Foreign Policy, no. 164, January-February 2008, pp. 82-83)

Will the worldwide tidal wave of aging baby boomers create a fiscal burden that will devastate the global economy? No, says Shoven, director of the Institute for Economic Policy Research at Stanford University. Our conception of “old” has itself become old-fashioned, he writes. He recommends using modern mortality risk measurements -- or the chance a person has of dying within the next year -- to measure age. The higher the mortality risk, the “older” a person is. Today’s 65-year-old man can expect to live another 17 years and has the same mortality risk a 59-year-old man did in 1970 or a 56-year-old man did in 1940. (Women, on average, live longer than men.) So, if one looks at the fraction of the U.S. population with a mortality risk higher than 1.5 percent, the growth of the “elderly” population is not that dramatic. By 2050, Shoven says, only 62.5 million Americans, or about 1.5 percent of the population, will have a mortality risk greater than 1.5 percent. Nonetheless, the average length of retirement for today’s 65-year-old man has stretched to more than 19 years. To keep the costs of ever-lengthening retirements under control, Shoven recommends altering retirement ages and pensions to reflect current mortality risks.

Staniford, Stuart FERMENTING THE FOOD SUPPLY: MODELLING BIOFUEL PRODUCTION AS AN INFECTIOUS GROWTH ON FOOD PRODUCTION (The Oil Drum, January 7, 2008)

The author, a consulting scientist and computer security researcher, notes that it is now generally recognized that biofuels production is having an inflationary effect on food prices, and that in the U.S., ethanol production is growing rapidly and is consuming a significant fraction of the corn harvest. Staniford writes that globally, biofuels production is several years behind that in the U.S., and warns that if it continues on an upward trajectory similar to that in the U.S., it has the potential to cause widespread starvation among the poor, possibly within the next five years. In this technical but readable article, using a variety of methods, including infection/diffusion modelling, Staniford believes that, like a bacterial growth in a Petri dish, world biofuels production is at the beginning stages of a rapid upward growth that will consume an increasing share of the annual global food supply. Available online at <http://www.theoil drum.com/node/2431> (Print caution: with browser text size set to medium, only the first 30-35 pages are the article itself; the remainder of this URL are posted comments)

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Basora, Adrian MUST DEMOCRACY CONTINUE TO RETREAT IN POSTCOMMUNIST EUROPE AND EURASIA? (Orbis, vol. 52, no. 1, Winter 2008, pp. p3-24)

Basora, Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, argues that democratic progress is still achievable in many former communist countries, and that a look at recent history provides important perspectives towards that goal. Yet, both the region's reform leaders and Western

policy makers must also take full account of the new “post-postcommunist” paradigm, characterized by Russia’s negative and increasing influence, the European Union’s “expansion fatigue,” the waning of U.S. democracy-promotion efforts and credibility, and some degree of democratic disillusionment. Basora notes that in late 2004, Ukraine’s Orange Revolution appeared to herald a second wave of democratic transformation destined to sweep through much of postcommunist Europe and Eurasia. Now, only three years later, this wave has dissipated. Some analysts see democracy as being in retreat and they view the lessons of 1989-2004 as no longer applicable. Basora hypothesizes that through re-invigorated and more united efforts, the impressive post-1989 gains in democratization can be consolidated and new momentum built towards the goal of “a Europe whole and free.”

Bunce, Valerie THE TASKS OF DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION AND TRANSFERABILITY (Orbis, vol. 52, no. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 25-41)

Bunce, professor of international studies at Cornell University, asserts that there is no single road to democracy. Nevertheless, there are some factors that seem to have consistently positive effects on democratic development, including the existence of a large and diverse civil society as well as a sharp political break with the authoritarian past. Subsequently, these are followed by issues such as regular turnovers in political leadership as well as governing parties and stable state borders. Bunce asserts that a successful democratic transition must also include political institutions which empower parliaments and, in culturally diverse societies, give minorities’ political voice without locking them into permanent coalitions. The less significant issues include economic considerations. Nevertheless, Bunce advocates that these reforms are far more likely in democratic settings than in authoritarian regimes and far more supportive for robust economic performance.

Freeman, Michael DEMOCRACY, AL QAEDA, AND THE CAUSES OF TERRORISM: A STRATEGIC ANALYSIS OF U.S. POLICY (Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, vol. 31, no. 1, 2008, pp. 40-59)

New research indicates that the widespread belief that the power of democracy can defeat terrorism in its many forms is misplaced. Professor Freeman of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School argues that promoting democracy does little to change perceptions when a nation is also occupied by a foreign army. The belief that promoting democracy will stop the spread of terrorism is based on the idea that terrorism is caused by or encouraged by a lack of democracy and political participation by citizens in a particular nation. But people suffering from the frustrations and humiliations that result from growing economic, social, political and military failures, and without the means to peacefully resolve them, will in time turn to terrorism as an alternative form of protest, Freeman says. And the promotion of democracy in many Middle Eastern countries is often perceived as a threat to Islamic identity and culture, and is unlikely to change economic grievances. And, many in the Middle East also believe that democracy is unlikely to provide a more legitimate government than one based on religious law, Freeman says.

Fuller, Graham E. A WORLD WITHOUT ISLAM (Foreign Policy, no. 164, January-February 2008, pp. 46-53)

To many, Islam seems to lie behind a broad range of international disorders. But a world without Islam would leave the world exactly where it is today, says Fuller, former vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA and currently adjunct professor of history at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Terrorism, for example, in the name of Islam or any other religion is hardly unique, Fuller says. Religion is the best banner for oppressed peoples seeking to glorify their cause and has been used frequently across the centuries. Rather than being the source of confrontation, religion is the vehicle used by radical groups to articulate grievances. Even without Islam, the face of the Middle East is complex and conflicted, Fuller says; struggles over power, territory, influence and trade existed long before Islam arrived. “At rock bottom,” he writes, “conflict between East and West remains all about the grand historical and geopolitical issues of human history: ethnicity, nationalism, ambition, greed, resources, local leaders, turf, financial

gain, power, interventions and hatred of outsiders, invaders, and imperialists. Faced with timeless issues like these, how could the power of religion not be invoked?"

Herby, Peter; La Haye, Eve HOW DOES IT STACK UP? THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE BAN CONVENTION AT 10 (Arms Control Today, vol. 37, no. 10, December 2007, pp. 6-10)

The authors, who work for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, describe the 1997 Ottawa Convention to ban anti-personnel landmines as "one of the most successful multilateral arms treaties of recent times." The development of the convention and the ensuing decade of implementation, they say, has "provided a model for cooperative engagement among states, international agencies, civil society organizations, and specialist NGOs in achieving results that none could have achieved alone." Its example offers insights or lessons learned for tackling other global humanitarian problems, according to Herby and La Haye, since the accord grew from a simple dream to a commitment by 156 nations. The article, which includes a chart listing anti-personnel mine stockpiles for eight countries, describes the convention as "a living process" with a humanitarian program of action that has successfully mobilized thousands of individuals worldwide. Available online at http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2007_12/Herby.asp

Ikenberry, G. John THE RISE OF CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF THE WEST (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 1, January-February 2008)

China appears poised to overtake the United States as a world power, but the transition need not be a bloody one, according to Ikenberry, professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University. China will face not a single power but the entire Western order of democratic capitalist states. That order, built around rules and market openness, creates the conditions for China and other rising powers to gain status and play a role in global governance. "The road to global power, in effect, runs through the Western order and its multilateral economic institutions," Ikenberry says. The coming power shift can occur peacefully and on terms favorable to the United States, but only by the United States reinforcing the Western order's system of global governance, first by reestablishing itself as its foremost supporter. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20080101faessay87102/g-john-ikenberry/the-rise-of-china-and-the-future-of-the-west.html>

Nasr, Valia; Takeyh, Ray THE COSTS OF CONTAINING IRAN: WASHINGTON'S MISGUIDED NEW MIDDLE EAST POLICY (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 1, January-February 2008)

Containing Iran is a Cold War fantasy doomed to fail, according to Nasr, professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and Takeyh, a senior fellow at the council. They say Iran could pose threats to U.S., Arab, or Israeli interests. "But envisioning that a grand U.S.-Arab-Israeli alliance can contain Iran will sink Afghanistan, Iraq, and Lebanon into greater chaos; inflame Islamic radicalism; and commit the United States to a lengthy and costly presence in the Middle East," they say. Iran is not a messianic power aiming to spread Islamic militancy, but rather an ambitious rising state seeking to assert influence in its region. The U.S. should aim to integrate Iran into the region in a way that all relevant powers have a stake in preserving regional stability. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20080101faessay87106/vali-nasr-ray-takeyh/the-costs-of-containing-iran.html>

Newman, Edward WEAK STATES, STATE FAILURE, AND TERRORISM (Terrorism and Political Violence, vol. 19, no. 4, Fall 2007, pp. 463-488)

Policymakers and scholars have been making the common assertion for a number of years that weak or failed states are the incubators of terrorism. The author, professor of political science and international studies at the University of Birmingham, notes, however, that terrorist groups have come from and operated within countries which have strong, stable governments. Weak and failed states may offer terrorist groups a tactical advantage, but the economic and logistical opportunities of stronger states gives these same groups strategic advantages, he notes. What weak and failed states offer is "an enabling environment," but are not incubators, Newman says. Such a condition, his research indicates, is not a sufficient explanation upon which to make

significant policy decisions. State-building as a counterterrorism policy is effective where those governments are also actively engaged in anti-terrorism and counterterrorism efforts. Helping weak or failed states recover and grow is more an issue of improving regional development than one of counterterrorism, he writes.

Ross, Dennis REMEMBER STATECRAFT? (American Scholar, vol. 76, no. 3, Summer 2007, pp. 47-57)

Dennis Ross, formerly with the U.S. Department of State, urges the current administration to rediscover the lost art of statecraft. The definition of this term includes viewing the world as it is and not as we wish it would be. Those practicing statecraft must recognize that timing is crucial and opportunities for diplomacy must be recognized and seized. The author also provides historical examples of the use of successful statecraft by past administrations. In instances where statecraft has worked, the objective was clear, role players were recognized and personal work on the problem was necessary.

Stohl, Rachel QUESTIONABLE REWARD: ARMS SALES AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM (Arms Control Today, vol. 38, no. 1, February 2008, pp. 17-23)

Stohl, a senior analyst at the private, Washington-based Center for Defense Information, investigates how various forms of U.S. military security assistance is being used to solidifying partners in the global war against terrorism. In the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks against the United States, she examines the pattern of arms sales and military training and aid given to 25 nations in every part of the world (except the Americas) which are either front-line states in counterterrorism efforts or face significant terrorist threat in their region. Her article includes two helpful sidebars: one addressing U.S. weapons export policy and another comparing changes in U.S. military assistance and arms sales from fiscal years 1997-2001 to FY 2002-2006. The author suggests that it would be best if the United States abided by long-standing export laws to ensure that arms exports don't "undermine security and stability, weaken democracy, support military coups, escalate arms races, exacerbate ongoing conflicts, or cause arms buildups in unstable regions or are used to commit human rights abuses." This might entail scaling back military aid to close allies such as Pakistan, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, she said, in an effort to promote human rights improvements. Currently available online at http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2008_01-02/stohl.asp

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Bell, Steven J. DESIGN THINKING (American Libraries, vol. 39, nos. 1-2, January/February 2008, pp. 44-49)

According to the author, design thinking can offer a new perspective and a creative approach in organizing the professional workspace and creating the best possible worker experience. Design thinkers take a much more deliberate and thoughtful approach to problem resolution; they rarely jump on bandwagons. The author adapts his principles (understand; observe; visualize; evaluate/refine; implement) to the library professional but emphasizes that they can be used by others as well. With design thinking, librarians can navigate users to the library and its electronic resources and move beyond the traditional mindset of library service. Books and articles by and about design thinkers, such as the *The Art of Innovation*, can provide greater detail and more concrete examples of how design thinking is applied to the creation of products and services. The Blended Librarians Online Learning Community (blendedlibrarian.org) is beginning to explore ways in which design thinking can be applied to further collaboration with community partners and help students achieve academic success.

Clausen, Christopher MOVING ON (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 22-26)

Whether in covered wagons or station wagons, Americans have always hit the road, driven by the belief that a better life exists somewhere else. Whether moving to a new house in the same

neighborhood or going across the country, moving is a stressful, time-consuming and expensive proposition. It is also a sacred American rite, the modern-day equivalent of our immigrant ancestors on the frontier. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average American moves 11.7 times in a lifetime. Better-educated and more affluent Americans move longer distances, while approximately 60% of native-born Americans still live in the state where they were born. Between 2005 and 2006, some forty million people changed addresses, almost fourteen percent of the entire population, which is considered below the historical average for the period since the government started keeping records in 1948.

Gaines, James WASHINGTON AND LAFAYETTE (Smithsonian, vol. 38, no. 6, September 2007, pp. 82-92)

When the bumptious, aristocratic nineteen-year-old Marquis de Lafayette was brought in as a new "major general" to the dour George Washington in July 1777, a greater contrast in personalities could not be imagined. Despite their differences, Washington and Lafayette quickly grew close, and became inseparable during wartime. Some historians write that they may have developed a father-son relationship, but the author notes that Washington and Lafayette shared one important characteristic: they lived in the world of a monarchy, in which status was conferred, not earned. Both men in their own ways, "had to win their own independence ... making their way from courtier-subjects to patriot-citizens" in which achievements are earned by one's own effort. After American independence, relations between the two became strained; after returning to France, Lafayette advocated exporting American revolutionary principles with the "fervor of a convert", while Washington urged his country never to take up arms except in self-defense. The author notes that the debate over the wisdom of exporting revolutionary ideals by force has an echo with the differences between France and America over the war in Iraq.

Litt, Steven THE GREENING OF MUSEUM ARCHITECTURE (ARTnews, vol. 106, no. 9, October 2007, pp. 190-193)

The Grand Rapids (Michigan) Art Museum is the first newly constructed art museum in the U.S. to be certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard for environmentally-sound building practices. Museums in the U.S. have been slow to embark on "green" building design, fearing extra costs as well as potential difficulties in maintaining temperature and humidity controls necessary to protect works of art. Thanks to a growing number of conservation-minded philanthropists, there is increasing support for museums to adopt environmentally-friendly building practices. Among the other institutions featured in the article are the Denver Museum of Contemporary Art and the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

Roberts, Walter R. WHAT IS PUBLIC DIPLOMACY? PAST PRACTICES, PRESENT CONDUCT, POSSIBLE FUTURE (Mediterranean Quarterly, vol. 18, no. 4, Fall 2007, pp. 36-52)

The author, cofounder of the Public Diplomacy Institute at George Washington University and a former member of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, writes that there is no agreement on what constitutes public diplomacy. A century ago, the populations of most countries were all-but-unreachable; no government had any reason to explain their policies to foreign publics. That changed with the invention of radio, which the Bolshevik and Nazi regimes used to great effect. It was the Nazi wartime propaganda activities in Latin America that prompted the U.S. to initiate cultural and academic exchanges. Roberts describes the post-WWII evolution of U.S. public diplomacy programs, which President Truman recognized were necessary during the newly-developing Cold War, and the often-thorny disagreements between "cultural" and "information" programs that led to the creation of the U.S. Information Agency. Roberts notes that in a modern, information-rich world, particularly with the development of the Internet, foreign publics are becoming more informed and sophisticated. Their attitudes are having an ever-greater impact on the actions of their governments, even in autocratic countries, and it is essential now that governments be able to reach the publics of other countries. The success of public diplomacy depends on a country's policies, and has now become an essential part of our foreign policy.

Sellers, Patricia MELINDA GATES GOES PUBLIC (Fortune, vol. 157, no. 1, January 21, 2008, pp. 44//56)

In this interview, Melinda Gates, wife of Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates, talks about her husband, working in partnership with Warren Buffett, and her role in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and its new approach to philanthropy. In 2005, the foundation increased its giving for global health, including more than \$436 million in grants through its Grand Challenges in Global Health, a public-private partnership to develop health technology for the developing world that is easy to transport and use, and effective. The Gates Foundation has adopted a practical, get-it-done approach; where government-based one-size-fits-all efforts fail, the foundation instead assembles the right partners and the specific expertise required to solve a given problem. Depending on the issue, the foundation might work with governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, or individuals. These efforts have created new incentives for corporate involvement and redefined traditional public-private boundaries, all in the name of having "the greatest impact for the most people."

Books

The Almanac of American politics, 2008 / Ed. by Michael Barone, Richard E. Cohen. - Washington, D.C. : New York : Sunrise Books, National Journal Inc., 2007.

Editor & Publisher International Year Book, 2007 / Editor & Publisher. - 87th ed. - New York : Editor & Publisher Co., 2007.

Part 1 : Dailies

Part 2 : Weeklies

Part 3 :Contact Directory

IIP Publications

Making a Difference in the U.S.A.: Women in Politics

This publication offers the stories of women who believed that they could make a difference by participating in politics and government, and forged ahead to do so. ([March 2008](#))

Free at Last: The U.S. Civil Rights Movement

This publication tells the story of the African-American civil rights movement in the United States, as well as of its roots in the injustices of slavery and segregation. ([February 2008](#))

Electronic Journals

Immigrants Joining the Mainstream

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, February 2008

Immigrants made the United States what it is. Being an American depends on acceptance of certain American ideals, not on the place of birth of a person or of his or her ancestors. This edition of eJournal USA tells the story of immigration and diversity as it has played out through the centuries and continues to play out now.

Webchats

Webchats allow foreign audiences to interact with American citizens on wide range of topics using a chat tool over the Internet. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do webchats on USINFO. You may visit the [USINFO Webchat Homepage](#) to see upcoming ones, and read the transcripts of the previous webchats.

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